

REMARKS

The above-identified application has been carefully reviewed and amended in light of the Examiner's communication mailed October 25, 2004.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's holding that claims 19, 20, 23-25, 28 and 29 are allowed.

Claims 10 and 22 have been amended to delete specific reference to micropheres.

Claims 18, 19, 20 and 25 have been amended to refer to a poly-lactic acid glycolic acid copolymer meaning to include, without limitation, copolymers including units derived from lactic acid and glycolic acid. These amendments are fully supported by the present specification, for example, at pages 9 and 13 of the specification.

In view of the amendments to claims 10 and 22, as noted above, applicant submits that claims 10, 16 to 18 and 22 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under this statutory provision be withdrawn.

In light of the above, applicant submits that all of the present claims, that is claims 10, 16 to 20, 22 to 25, 28 and 29 are allowable, and respectfully requests that the above-identified application be passed to issuance at an early date. Should any matters remain unresolved, applicant requests the Examiner to call (collect) applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank G. Uxa
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 25,612
4 Venture, Suite 300
Irvine, CA 92618
(949) 450-1750
Facsimile (949) 450-1764